

AN ORDINANCE BY
COMMITTEE ON COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER TWO, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2, SUBDIVISION II, SECTION 2-104 (a), ENTITLED "REMARKS FROM PUBLIC", OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, SO AS TO PRECLUDE THE CITY COUNCIL FROM ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL NAMES ON THE SPEAKERS' LIST, TO BE HEARD DURING REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC, AFTER ROLL CALL HAS OCCURRED AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; TO WAIVE CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, City Council ("Council") must maintain an orderly and efficient public remarks process so as to ensure that city business can be conducted, as well as, to allow those members of the public, that have signed up to speak to the Council, to be respectfully heard by the Council on matters of public concern, during a reasonable time frame; and

WHEREAS, limiting remarks by the public to those persons who have signed up to speak to the Council prior to its roll call further aids the Council in maintaining an orderly and efficient public remarks process; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to limit remarks by the public to those persons who have signed up to speak to the Council prior to Council's roll call.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA
as follows:

Section 1: Chapter Two, Article II, Division 2, Subdivision II, Section 2-104, which reads:

(a) The council shall hear remarks from the public at its regularly scheduled meetings for a time period not to exceed 60 minutes, with each person being allowed to speak a maximum of two minutes. Any member of the public may speak to the council on matters of public concern, including matters of general policy, efficiency and the conduct of city government, provided that the president may rule out of order personal, abusive or indecorous language, or matters that the city has no purview over, and may limit the time allotted to such remarks for all speakers not to exceed 60 minutes, up to two minutes per speaker. No person shall cede his/her time to another person. A speaker may yield his/her time to another speaker; the person to whom time has been yielded shall be placed at the end of the speakers' list. Such yielded time shall be heard only during the 60-minute remarks by the public period. Under no circumstances shall any person to whom time has been yielded be allowed to speak during any extensions of the initial remarks by the public period.

be hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) The council shall hear remarks from those members of the public who sign up to speak prior to roll being called at its regularly scheduled meetings. The time frame for public

remarks shall ~~for a time period~~ not to exceed 60 minutes, with each person being allowed to speak a maximum of two minutes. Any member of the public may speak to the council on matters of public concern, including matters of general policy, efficiency and the conduct of city government, provided that the president may rule out of order personal, abusive or indecorous language, or matters that the city has no purview over, and may limit the time allotted to such remarks for all speakers not to exceed 60 minutes, up to two minutes per speaker. No person shall cede his/her time to another person. A speaker may yield his/her time to another speaker; the person to whom time has been yielded shall be placed at the end of the speakers' list. Such yielded time shall be heard only during the 60-minute remarks by the public period. Under no circumstances shall any person to whom time has been yielded be allowed to speak during any extensions of the initial remarks by the public period.

Section 2: That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict.